

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4369

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

US MISSION GENEVA 681

USUN NEW YORK 1579

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS BANGKOK 24183

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:OCON:ESCAP:TPHY

SUBJ:ESCAP:TYPHOON COMMITTEE, EIGHTH SESSION, NOVEMBER 11-17,
1975, BANGKOK:24-0-UP

REF: A) BANGKOK 23678; B) BANGKOK 22742; C) BANGKOK 23855

1. SUMMARY: THIS LOW-KEY PROFESSIONAL MEETING HELD FEW SURPRISES. IT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE REMEMBERED MAINLY FOR RENEWED SOVIET REQUEST TO CHANGE STATUS FROM OBSERVER TO MEMBER. END SUMMARY.

2. ONLY FOUR MEMBERS ATTENDED: JAPAN, PHILIPPINES, THAILAND AND HONG KONG. FOUR OBSERVERS WERE MALAYSIA, FRANCE, USSR AND USA. FRG SENT A REPRESENTATIVE. ON FIRST DAY MALAYSIA INDICATED KEEN INTEREST TO JOIN AS MEMBER IN ORDER BENEFIT MORE FULLY FROM HYDROLOGICAL STUDIES. (BECAUSE IT WAS CONSIDERED PERSONAL RATHER THAN FORMAL REQUEST, FINAL REPORT DID NOT NOTE THIS ACTION.) RUMOR TURNED INTO REALITY ON CONFERENCE THIRD DAY WHEN USSR FORMALLY ASKED TO BE ADMITTED AS MEMBER JUSTIFYING THIS REQUEST BY NOTING IT ALSO SUFFERS FROM TYPHOON DAMAGE. SOVIETS CLAIMED FULL MEMBERSHIP WOULD PROVIDE STRONGER PARTICIPATION, AND THEY OFFERED TO PERMIT OTHER SCIENTISTS TO JOIN THEIR WEATHER SHIPS IN THE REGION. FINAL REPORT MERELY NOTES SOVIET REQUEST FOR

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MEMBERSHIP.

3. MEETING CLOSELY FOLLOWED AGENDA. SECRETARIAT READ DOCUMENTATION ON GIVEN ITEM AND MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS UPDATED THE INFORMATION OR COMMENTED ON DEVELOPMENTS. PLENARY MEETINGS CONSUMED THREE FULL DAYS AND HALF DAY WAS SPENT ON DRAFT REPORT BY DRAFTING COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF MEMBER STATES. SOVIETS ATTENDED UNTIL REQUESTED TO LEAVE DRAFTING COMMITTEE.

4. IN RESPONSE DIRECT QUESTION USREP CONFIRMED NO CHANGES WERE CONTEMPLATED IN US WEATHER RECONNAISSANCE MISSIONS.

5. HEART OF DISCUSSION WAS WHETHER UNDP SUPPORT COULD BE CONTINUED PAST 1976. ALL MEMBERS FAVORED THIS IDEA. FUTURE STAFFING WAS ANOTHER KEY ISSUE: BOTH PHILIPPINES AND JAPAN PROMISED TO SUPPLY METEOROLOGIST AND HYDROLOGIST RESPECTIVELY TO TC SECRETARIAT AND PHILIPPINES WOULD ALSO CONTINUE ITS ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT OF TC AS LONG AS IT EXISTED. THE COMMITTEE ISSUED A STATEMENT OF REQUIREMENTS AFTER 1976 WHICH INCLUDED A SENIOR TECHNICAL ADVISER AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ELECTRONICS EXPERT TO BE FINANCED BY UNDP.

6. US STATEMENT ON PROJECT STROMFURY RECEIVED WITHOUT COMMENT. PRIOR BRIEFING OF MEMBERS ACCOUNTS FOR THIS REACTION.

7. CLOSER LIAISON WITH WMO/ESCAP PANEL ON TROPICAL CYCLONES WILL BE MAINTAINED WITH SECRETARIAT STAFF ATTENDING EACH OTHERS MEETINGS WHICH WILL BE SCHEDULED SIX MONTHS APART.

7. PHILIPPINES GOVERNMENT AGREED TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF HOSTING NEXT TC MEETING IN MANILA.
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